

- Park a clean vehicle in your driveway.
- Leave window treatments in their normal daytime positions without exposing anything valuable.
- Leave lights and a TV or radio on when going out for an evening to make it appear that you're at home.
- Use timers on lights, radios, TVs, etc. to make them go on and off during the day and night to make your home appear occupied when you're away.
- **Never** announce your vacation plans on any social networking sites. Wait until you get home to post your vacation blog and photos.
- Stop mail or newspaper delivery or have a neighbor pick them up.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up anything left at your door or elsewhere.
- Keep grass watered and cut. Water and trim other plants.
- Secure your electric garage door openers on the inside.
- Lock or otherwise secure all pet doors that a person might crawl through.
- Call your local SDPD Division to request vacation home checks. R.S.V.P. provides vacation checks.
- Set your burglar alarm and notify your alarm company that you will be away so it won't call your home first to verify the alarm before calling the SDPD.
- Familiarize a home or pet sitter with your home's security systems.

- File a Letter of Agency with the SDPD to authorize it to act as you agent and enter your property for purposes of enforcing laws against any person(s) found on the property without your consent or lawful purpose. This must be done at www.sandiego.gov/police/forms/forms on the Trespass Authorization/Letter of Agency Form.

HELPING TO PREVENT AND SOLVE RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Join or form a Neighborhood Watch in your area. A SDPD PDF on starting and maintaining a program is at: www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/neighborhoodwatchplanning.pdf.
- Call **911** if you see a person trying to get into a neighbor's home or removing property from it when the neighbor is away.
- Call **(619) 531-2000** or **(858) 484-3154** to report anything suspicious on your street, e.g., a person going door-to-door, loitering on the sidewalk, sitting in a parked vehicle, or a vehicle driving slowly looking at the homes.
- Know about what goes on in your neighborhood, i.e., who belongs there, what vehicles they own, who's away on vacation, etc.
- Call Crime Stoppers' 24-hour hotline at **(888) 580-8477** if you have

information that might help solve a burglary.

- Provide tips by text messaging from a cell phone to **274637** with **SDTips** at the beginning of the message. You can also submit tips to TipSoft at www.tipsoft.com/index.aspx?P=WeTips.
- Report code violations, unsafe street conditions, etc. that degrade the quality of life in your community. You can do this online or by telephone, smartphone, or by mail as discussed on the SDPD website at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/police/forms>

SDPD DIVISIONS

For general information please contact your local police substation.

Central Division	(619) 744-9500
Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Mid-City Division	(619) 516-3000
Northeastern Division	(858) 538-8000
Northern Division	(858) 552-1700
Northwestern Division	(858) 523-7000
Southeastern Division	(619) 527-3500
Southern Division	(619) 424-0400
Western Division	(619) 692-4800

For more information, online visit: www.sandiego.gov/police/

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SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT Home Security

This brochure contains information that will help you prevent home burglaries by controlling access and maintaining your property. It also contains tips on protecting your home and property when you are away and helping to prevent residential burglaries in your neighborhood.

Additional information and details on these tips can be found in the home security paper on the SDPD website at www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/homesecurity.pdf. It also includes material on vetting home employees and contractors, installing smart home systems, making sure the police can find your home or unit, and identifying your property if you become a victim.

CONTROLLING ACCESS

- Install dead-bolt locks on all doors.
- Install a steel reinforcing device on the lock side of all exterior wood door frames to prevent a burglar from kicking in the door.
- Install secondary locking devices on all windows and sliding glass doors, including those on balconies.
- Pet doors should be the smallest your pet can get through.
- Re-key or change all locks when moving into a new home. Make sure the locksmith is licensed by the California Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.
- Install good side-yard gates and keep them locked.
- Use a burglar-resistant material in all windows and doors that a burglar might try to break through. Glass with a security film attached to the inside can also be burglar-resistant.
- Install security bars or security screens on windows that a burglar might break to enter your home.
- Plant bushes with thorns or prickly leaves in front of windows.
- Have a dog that can scare a stranger away by barking. **Post sign re: dog.**
- Never let a stranger enter your home to use the telephone, even if he or she says it's an emergency. Offer to make the call yourself.

- Install a burglar alarm system with contacts on all ground-level doors and windows, and heat or motion detectors in interior spaces that don't have break-in sensors.
- Work only with a reliable alarm company. Check references.
- Install cameras that can record on motion outside and on a burglar alarm inside. If you or your alarm company can access the imagery remotely and see a burglar in your home, **911** can be called to report a crime in progress. **Signs can help deter break-ins** and outside thefts, e.g., a package from the porch. They should just say "recorded video surveillance is in use."
- Install a video intercom system at your front door so you can see and talk to people there using your smartphone when you're home or away. Have a wide-angle peephole in the door.
- Lock all doors and windows when you go out. Windows can be left partially open for ventilation if they have security bars or screens, or secondary locking devices. Be sure to set your burglar alarm.
- Don't leave keys in planters or under doormats. Leave an extra key with a neighbor.
- Don't open the door for anyone you don't know.
- If you don't want to open the door, say "we can't come to the door now"

so a burglar won't think the home is vacant and try to break in.

- Don't leave your home keys on a chain with your vehicle keys when you use valet parking or leave your garage door opener where it is easily accessible. Hide your vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and any other papers with your home address.
- Don't give maids, babysitters, or others working in your home access to your home keys or alarm codes.
- Call **911** if you are at home and think someone might be breaking in. Don't take direct action yourself. An officer will be dispatched to your address even if you can't speak or hang up.
- Keep valuable papers, stocks, bonds, expensive jewelry, coin collections, etc. in a bank safe deposit box. If you do keep some at home, don't keep them in the master bedroom. That's the first place burglars look and ransack. The laundry room would be a better place to hide valuables. It's best if you keep valuables in a security closet or a safe that is well hidden and can't be removed. Keep guns locked up.
- Call the SDPD Community Relations Officer (CRO) in your neighborhood for a free home security survey. SDPD Division phone numbers are listed at the end of this brochure.
- Leave outside lights on after dark or place them on a motion detector.

Street lights are generally inadequate for illuminating your property.

- Check lights regularly and replace burnt out bulbs.
- Trim bushes to less than 3 feet to eliminate possible hiding places, especially near windows.
- Trim tree canopies to at least 8 feet to allow visibility into your property.
- Replace solid walls in front yards with open fencing to eliminate hiding places.

MAINTAINING YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep it in good condition and free of trash, litter, weeds, leaves, graffiti, dismantled or inoperative vehicles, and other things that indicate neglect.
- Replace broken windows, screens, fences, and gate locks.
- Remove loose rocks and other objects that could be used to vandalize your property.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

- Ask the neighbors to watch your home and report any suspicious activities to the SDPD on its non-emergency number, **(619) 531-2000** or **(858) 484-3154**.
- For a crime in progress they should call **911**.